

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
January 29, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Service Center: [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov) or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

**January 29, 2013**

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome
- II. Special Recognition
- III. Q&A with Mayor Cook
- IV. Future of WeCAN
- V. WeCAN Website
- VI. Fireworks Use Ordinance
- VII. Conclude



**I. Welcome**

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the facilitator for WeCAN in 2013. Room went around and introduced themselves one at a time.

**II. Special Recognition**

Jim Ake presented Councilman John Dippel with a plaque, thanking him for his work facilitating WeCAN in 2012.

**III. Q&A with Mayor Cook**

Mayor Cook thanked John and Jim for their commitment to WeCAN and mentioned all the things WeCAN has accomplished over the year. He went on to encourage participation so that WeCAN will go well into the future.

Q: What's happening at 161<sup>st</sup> and S. Union St.?

A: Utility relocation for US31 freeway project.

Q: Are we still on schedule for transferring the utility to Citizens Energy Group?

A: Yes, on schedule. The proposal currently rests at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). Hearing on our case begins in April and should conclude in the fall.

Q: Please speak about the Westfield resident voted as a Hamilton County Commissioner on Monday.

A: Westfield resident, Mark Heirbrandt replaces Doug Carter, who took position as Indiana State Police Chief. Mark previously served on Westfield's Board of Public Works and Safety.

Q: Roundabout at 161<sup>st</sup> and Oak Ridge Rd. – when is it happening – sign says 2013.

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
January 29, 2013 at 7 pm.

A: It is being reconstructed into a roundabout this year.

Q: When promoting utility contact numbers in the future, is it ok to put down Citizen Energy Group's phone number or City?

A: City number. The current City contact number for utility questions remains – 804-3015. Once acquired, the number will still be active for several years. Residents also continue to call 804-3015 for trash questions/concerns.

Q: Who do we call in the event a resident is stuck in their driveway, unable to leave due to heavy snow in their street/cul-de-sac?

A: Public Affairs – 804-3150.

Q: Are there any hotels applying for building permits around the sports campus?

A: Yes, 5 different hotels are committed and ready to go through process soon.

Q: Are there documents online that show detailed plans for dugouts, concession stands?

A: Those are a part of the bid documents, which will be available online at [www.grandpark.org](http://www.grandpark.org) as soon as they are publicly available.

Q: Are WYSA and WYSI still planning on moving to Grand Park?

A: Yes, Mayor met with them on Monday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> and they are very excited to get settled in at Grand Park.

Q: Who is currently running Public Works?

A: Todd Burtron, Chief of Staff. However, a permanent replacement is expected to be announced in the next 2 weeks.

Mayor went on to mention a couple of other items worthy of note:

- The City took bids on the next phase of Grand Park – came in under budget.
- Mayor spoke on the Grand Park Sports Campus display and VIP reception at the National Soccer Coaches convention in Indianapolis last week - along with a booth at the Indiana Bulls baseball conference last weekend.

#### **IV. Future of WeCAN – Jim Ake**

Jim Ake spoke on some potential changes happening with WeCAN in 2013:

Beginning with the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, WeCAN will meet in the City Services Center's Main Level Media Room. The City Services Center is located at 2728 E. 171<sup>st</sup> Street. It is the large building with the fountain in the front. Signs will be setup directing WeCAN members to the

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January 29, 2013 at 7 pm.

correct parking lot and meeting room. Hosting the meetings at the CSC allow for better use of media and is more conducive for discussion and presentations.

Mr. Ake also brought to the attention of the group that there are a lot of neighborhoods that are not attending WeCAN meetings, partly because they may not be organized HOAs. He encouraged the group to get the word out to residents within those neighborhoods in hopes they would send a representative to WeCAN meetings. A suggestion was made that the important part of attending the WeCAN meetings is to make sure the representative goes back to the neighborhood and gets the word out on what was discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Ake announced that he was looking for three subcommittee members that would meet before or after the WeCAN meetings. This committee would be responsible for supplying potential meeting topics and improvement ideas. Three members volunteered: Tom Smith, Mulberry Farms; Larry Clarino, Brookside; and Lyle Backes, Villages of Oak Manor.

Mr. Ake asked for topic ideas for future meetings. Some of the ideas were: development, safety and transportation, crime watch, taxes,

Additionally, some members had other opinions on what should be discussed during the meetings:

- Tours of City projects (Grand Park, Training Facility, etc.)
- Hear earlier on “What’s happening here” signs – what’s being proposed
- When guests present, find out objective of communication, what topic they are discussing, how WeCAN should respond.
- Get the Current more involved in Westfield. Can anything be done about it?
- The City is always looking for content for the Your City Matters Newsletter. Ideas for potential content can be sent to Derek at [dtodd@westfield.in.gov](mailto:dtodd@westfield.in.gov)
- Place section of website for “What’s happening here” signs where people can search for specific projects.
- Set a goal to have set agenda two weeks before next meeting

Mr. Ake stated that the next WeCAN meeting will feature a discussion on snow plowing where we will discuss clear explanations of what the liabilities and standards should be for private vs. city plows.

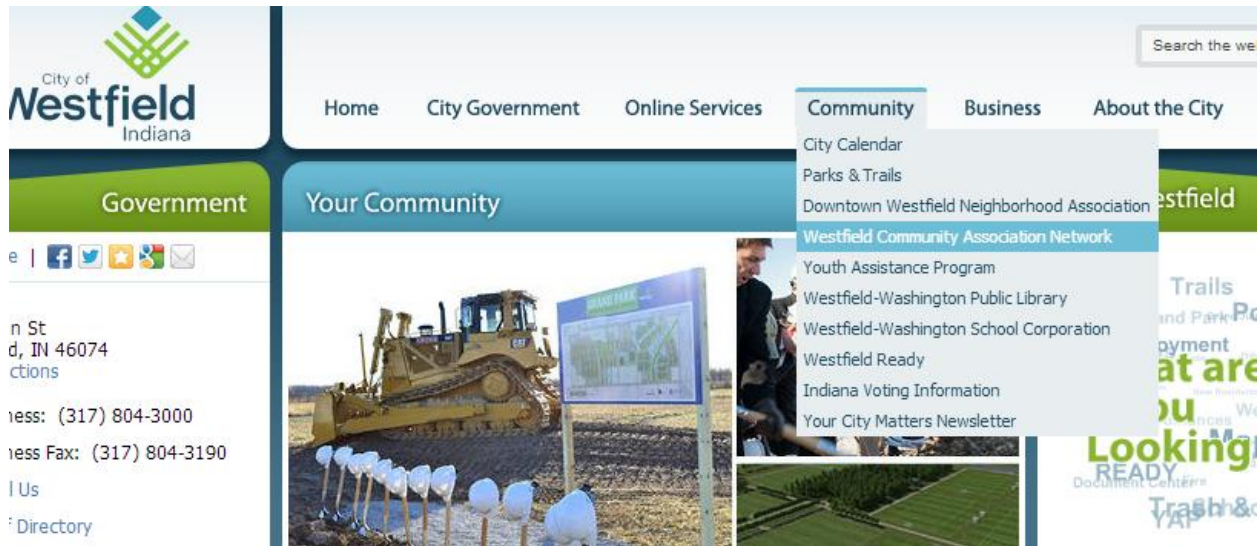
## **V. WeCAN Website – Derek Todd**

Derek Todd, Public Affairs Specialist for the City, proposed transferring the WeCAN website from its current format on Google Sites to the City’s website. Moving the website will make it more manageable on the Public Affairs Department who operates the current WeCAN site.

Derek presented the new WeCAN website found on the City’s website:

<http://www.westfield.in.gov/department/index.php?structureid=253>

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
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On the page, members will find the same information that is found on the current site, with the exception of the WeCAN Member Registration From:



The City is asking that each member of the WeCAN group go to the webpage and register their personal information so that they can keep an up to date roster for the meetings.

Derek received a couple of website suggestions:

- Add communication pieces from presenters on the website – perhaps in the related documents section
- A place to give input/discuss topics on the website – a forum
- Link and provide training for those who use NextDoor

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
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In addition to hearing about the website, Carrie Cason, Director of Public Affairs for the City, discussed the current changes with their department internally. As of early November, the former Communications division merged with the Public Works Customer Service division to form the Office of Public Affairs, and in turn, went from two to ten employees. The department is responsible for City communication, community relations and utility billing. For questions on the Public Affairs Department, please call or email Carrie at 804-3150 or [ccason@westfield.in.gov](mailto:ccason@westfield.in.gov).

## **VI. Fireworks Use Ordinance**

Councilman John Dippel read aloud the draft that will head to Council of the Fireworks Use Ordinance. He specifically read the days and hours fireworks are permitted. A copy of the ordinance will be available on the WeCAN site in the next couple weeks.

## **VII. Conclude**

Jim Ake concluded the stating that the persons involved in the recent Westfield mailbox explosions have been apprehended by police. Five people in total were involved – all high school students.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, February 26th, at 7pm** at the Westfield City Service Center in the Main Level Media Room.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov).

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: [www.westfield.in.gov](http://www.westfield.in.gov) – under “Community” tab

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